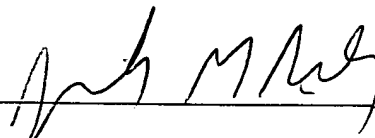


REMARKS

If the Examiner has any questions relating to the application, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (248) 647-6000.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A basket-(4) suitable for use in a vibratory screening apparatus (1), for use in removing solids from a liquid and solids mixture feed, said basket-(4) mounting a stack of at least three screen assemblies-(8', 8'', 8'''), with superposed screen assemblies separated from each other by a respective flow directing tray-(9, 31, 37), and ~~being provided with~~ including a flow distributor-(15, 24) formed and arranged for receiving filtrate from a primary upper screen assembly-(8') and dividing said filtrate into at least a first feed stream and a second feed stream and directing said feed streams onto ~~respective remaining first and second ones of first and second~~ said stack of screen assemblies-(8'', 8'''), and receiving filtrate from a respective remaining screen assembly (8', 8''), from said respective flow directing tray(s).
2. (Currently Amended) A basket-(4) according to claim 1, mounted in a ~~said~~ vibratory screening apparatus-(1) for use in removing solids from a liquid and solids mixture feed, said apparatus further comprising a static outer housing-(2), said housing comprising: a base support-(60) formed and arranged for mounting at least one said basket in floating manner so as to be vibratable, in use of the apparatus, by a vibrator device-(10) formed and arranged for vibrating said basket-(4), said base support-(60) having a sump-(56, 61) for receiving filtrate from said basket-(4), and said housing-(2) having a feed device-(64) formed and arranged for directing said liquid and solids mixture feed to said basket-(4) mounted in said base support-(60).
3. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein said flow distributor-(15) is formed and arranged so as to be switchable between a plurality of different flow directing configurations.
4. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 3 wherein said plurality of flow directing configurations includes an intensive screening configuration in which the whole of the feed is directed onto said first remaining screen assembly-(8'', 36) and the whole of the filtrate from said first screen assembly-(8'', 36) is directed onto said second remaining screen assembly-(8''', 46).

5. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~ wherein said plurality of flow directing configurations includes a restricted feed capacity configuration in which the whole of the feed is directed onto only one of said first and second remaining screen assemblies-(8'', 36, 8''', 46), and the filtrate therefrom exhausted directly from the apparatus-(1) without passing through the other one of said first and second screen assemblies-(8'', 36, 8''', 46).
6. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1 wherein said basket ~~has~~ further comprises a stack of three screen assemblies-(8', 8'', 8''', 31, 36, 46).
7. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ wherein at least said primary screen assembly-(8', 31) has a different mesh size from at least one ~~other~~ of said remaining screen assembly assemblies-(8', 8'', 36, 46).
8. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ wherein said first and second remaining screen assemblies-(8', 8'', 36, 46) have the same mesh size.
9. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein said flow distributor-(15, 24) defines a plurality of flow pathways provided with flow control devices-(20), for selective opening or[,] at least partial[,] closing of different passages-(17, 18).
10. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 9 wherein at least one said flow control device-(20) is selected from the group consisting essentially of: flap valves-(20', 20'', 20'''), sleeve valves, plug valves, and closure plates.
11. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~ wherein at least one said flow control device-(20) ~~is comprised~~ comprises by a weir-(39), formed and arranged for sub-dividing [a] said feed into [a] said first feed stream passing over said weir and a said second feed stream not passing over said weir.
12. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 11 wherein said weir-(39) comprises a variable height weir.
13. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 9 ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ wherein said flow distributor-(15, 24) includes at least one wall-(68) formed and arranged for defining a plurality of laterally adjacent flow pathways.

14. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ wherein the flow distributor (15) is mounted on the basket (4).

15. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ wherein the flow distributor (24) is coupled to the basket by flexible conduits (26).

16. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 2 ~~or any one of claims 3 to 15~~ ~~when dependent on claim 2~~, wherein said basket (4) forms part of a multi-basket assembly comprising a plurality of said baskets, mounted in said static housing (2), and wherein said housing (2) has a feed distribution device (15) formed and arranged for directing said liquid and solids mixture feed to ~~any one or more~~ at least one of said plurality of baskets.

17. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 2 ~~or any one of claims 3 to 15~~ ~~when dependent on claim 2~~, wherein said basket (4) further includes a lateral divider (68) defining independent feed processing modules (28, 29, 69, 70), and wherein said housing has a feed distribution device (71-74) formed and arranged for directing said liquid and solids mixture feed to ~~any one or more~~ at least one of said basket feed processing modules (28, 29, 69, 70).

18. (Currently Amended) A basket as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ wherein said flow directing trays (9, 31, 37) are formed and arranged so that substantially the whole of the filtrate from a screen assembly (8) directly above said flow directing tray (9, 31, 37) can be intercepted thereby, whereby said feed can be substantially fully divided into parallel first and second feed streams to respective ones of first and second remaining screen assemblies (8', 8'').